

REMARKS

Claims 4 and 6-7 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 4 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 5, which has been canceled.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

I. Response to Rejection of Claims 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) or (b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 2001-198540, JP 2000-312862, JP 8-085070, JP 2000-288482, JP 2000-128945, or JP 10-154686.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 4 is directed to a cleaning sheet consisting of a support, a thermoset resin cleaning layer having porosity formed on one side of the support, and a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer comprising a thermoplastic resin formed on the other side of the support. The thermoset resin cleaning layer having porosity has substantially no tackiness. Claim 6 is directed to a transfer member and claim 7 is directed to a method of cleaning.

1. JP 2001-198540 and JP 2000-312862

The cleaning layers of JP '540 and JP '862 are formed by curing with active energy ray a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer in which polymerizable unsaturated compound and polymerization initiator are incorporated into a pressure-sensitive adhesive polymer, such as an acrylic polymer.

In addition, JP '540 and JP '862 are silent regarding the porosity of the cleaning layer. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that neither JP '540 nor JP '862 teaches the claimed cleaning layer.

2. JP 8-085070

Although JP '070 describes forming punching holes or slits on a plastic sheet composed of phenolic resin and the like, the size of the holes or slits is 0.5 mm or larger, as can be seen from the Examples. In contrast, the pore diameter of the cleaning layer of the present invention is generally 0.1 to 50 μm , and owing to the porosity having such a small pore diameter, the cleaning layer of the present invention can catch and remove foreign particles attached on a substrate. When the size of the pore diameter is so large as in JP '070, the effect of catching foreign particles is considerably decreased. Hence, it is submitted that JP '070 does not teach the claimed cleaning layer.

3. JP 2000-288482

JP '482 relates to a melamine resin foam used in a wet state. In contrast, the cleaning layer of the present invention is not used in a wet state. In addition, the cleaning layer of the present invention has substantially no tackiness. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that JP '482 does not teach the claimed cleaning layer.

4. JP 2000-128945

JP '945 does not relate to a cleaning material. Thus, JP '945 fails to teach a thermoset resin cleaning layer having porosity formed on one side of the support or a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer comprising a thermoplastic resin formed on the other side of the support. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that JP '945 does not teach the claimed cleaning sheet.

5. JP 10-154686

JP '686 describes cleaning a substrate-processing apparatus using a substrate having a pressure-sensitive adhesive substance attached thereto. In such a case, the pressure-sensitive adhesive substance may adhere to the interior of the apparatus, and thus the substrate cannot be conveyed without fail. In contrast, the cleaning layer of the present invention has

substantially no tackiness. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that JP '686 does not teach the claimed cleaning layer.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references anticipates claim 4.

In addition, claims 6-7 depend from claim 4, and thus it is respectfully submitted that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 4.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 4 and 6-7 is respectfully requested.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Keiko K. Takagi
Registration No. 47,121

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON DC SUGHRUE/265550

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